

ABSTRACT

A system for use on the Internet or other network to allow automated
licensing of works of authorship and access to information about licenses
which have been granted. A unique work identifier is issued to each of a
large number of works of authorship, most of which are available on the
Internet, but some of which are not. When the works are published,
whether or not on the Internet, the unique identifier is included. The unique
identifier leads to a web page where a user can accept an offered license
to do one or more of: reproduce, distribute, perform, display, or prepare
derivative works. The system then automatically generates a unique
license identifier which is placed in each copy of the work prepared by the
licensee. The license identifier leads to a web page which states the
particulars of the license that was granted. This page, in turn, provides
access to the licensing page describing the source work and it's offered
licenses, and to the original work itself, if available on the Internet, or other
computer network.